LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) [[A]] An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising the sequence set forth in ~~selected from SEQ ID NO:1,~~ SEQ ID NO:2~~, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:7, a fragment thereof, a derivative thereof, and a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes with a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:7, the nucleic acid sequence having the biological activity of a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:7~~. and non-functional derivatives thereof.

15. (canceled)

16. (withdrawn) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:8.

17. (previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of claim 14.

18. (previously presented) The vector of claim 17, further comprising one or more regulatory elements that ensure the transcription and/or translation of the nucleic acid sequence of claim 14.

19. (currently amended) A method for the production of plants, comprising the stable integration of ~~at least one~~ the nucleic acid sequence of claim 14, or non-functional derivative thereof, into the genome of plant cells or plant tissues and the regeneration of these modified plant cells or plant tissues into plants.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the integrated nucleic acid sequence further comprises one or more regulatory elements which ensure the transcription and/or translation of the nucleic acid sequence.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the integrated nucleic acid sequence is expressed in antisense orientation.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the integrated nucleic acid sequence has the activity of a ribozym which represses the biological activity of the endogenous nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:7.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is integrated via homologous recombination into the genomic region of the homologous endogenous gene.

24. (previously presented) A transformed plant cell or transformed plant tissue, comprising a stable integrated nucleic acid sequence of claim 14 in the genome of the plant cell or plant tissue.

25. (previously presented) The plant cell or plant tissue according to claim 24, regenerable to a seed producing plant.

26. (previously presented) A transgenic plant and its seeds comprising a recombinant nucleic acid sequence according to claim 14.

27. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 14 which encodes a polypeptide of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

28. (new) The vector of claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to the regulatory elements in an antisense orientation.

29. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to the regulatory elements in an antisense orientation.